



Express Mail Label No. EV 216521000 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti and J. Hawkins

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-003-2

Application No.: 09/992,211

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: November 16, 2001

Examiner: M. Thaler

For: EXPANDABLE CANNULA

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231
BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 6, 2002, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of the above-entitled application.

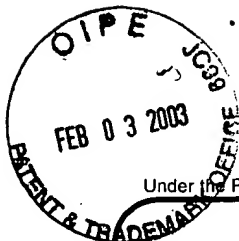
In the Claims

Please amend the identified claims to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims showing additions and deletions is attached hereto.

57. (Thrice Amended) An expandable cannula which is movable into a patient's body tissue, said cannula comprising a tubular sheath having a passage which extends between axially opposite end portions of said sheath, said sheath being resiliently expandable from a contracted condition in which the passage through said sheath has a relatively small cross sectional size in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal central axis of said sheath to an expanded condition in which the passage through said sheath has a relatively large cross sectional size in a plane

02-04-03

3731



PTO/SB/21 (08-00)
 Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/992,211
	Filing Date	11/16/2001
	First Named Inventor	P. Bonutti
	Group Art Unit	3731
	Examiner Name	M. Thaler
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number 780-A02-003-2

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Change of Correspondence Marked-Up copy of the Amended Claims Return Postcard
Remarks _____		

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Paul D. Bianco Reg. No. 43,500
Signature	<i>P. D. Bianco</i>
Date	02/03/2003

Express Mail Label No. EV 216521000 US		CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as <u>express</u> mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: February 3, 2003			
Typed or printed name	Dinah Fuentes		
Signature	<i>Dinah Fuentes</i>	Date	02/03/2003

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